8th October 1928]

Irrigation.

Reports on the repairs to the supply channel in Kurnool district.

* 350 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to my question No. 1619 answered on 28th February 1928 regarding repairs to the supply channel in Kurnool district—

(a) whether the further report called for has been received;

(b) what the report is;

(c) what the original discrepancy between the reports of the Chief Engineer and the Board of Revenue was; and

(d) what action the Government have taken or propose to take on these reports?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The reports[a] on the subject have been laid on the table.

(c) The Executive Engineer's report, dated 3rd April 1928, explains that there was no real discrepancy.

(d) The Government do not propose to take any action.

Land Assignment

Assignment of lands in Nilgiris district.

* 351 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of persons or associations who applied for assignment of lands in the Nilgiris district for plantation and other purposes during the last five years;

(b) the manner in which these applications have been disposed of by the Revenue Department;

(c) the extent and the value of the land in the Nilgiris district assigned to individuals and associations, the names of persons or individuals to whom these assignments were made, and the grounds and purposes for which they were made;

(d) the rates, conditions and terms on which each one of these assignments was made;

(e) the names of all the estate-owners in the Nilgiris district with the extent and value of the lands possessed by each one of them;

(f) the extent of land in the Nilgiris district still available for assignment to individuals or associations and the localities in which the same is situated;

(g) the extent and locality of reserve forests in the Nilgiris district still available to be converted into assignable lands; and

(h) the extent and locality of waste lands in the Nilgiris district?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) To answer these questions it would be necessary to print and place on the table all the darkhast registers of the district and the correspondence connected therewith. The Government regret they cannot undertake to do this.

(d) Applications for land are disposed of under the provisions of paragraph 41 of Board's Standing Order No. 15, Board's Standing Orders Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 according to the

[a] Vide communications to the Council in the agenda for 8th October 1928.

circumstances of each case. The terms of assignment of lands [a] for plantation purposes in the Nilgiri Upper Plateau are given in the appendix to this answer for ready reference.

(e), (f), (g) & (h) The particulars asked for are not available in any existing return or report nor in regard to some items could it be compiled without considerable preliminary enquiry. Whether a piece of land which is now reserve forest may be disforested and assigned is a question to be considered on the merits in each case and may often be a question difficult to an-wer.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know, with reference to (a), if these applications for assignment of lands have been received only from people resident in the Nilgiris or from non-resident people also?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I could not really say that. I must ask for notice of that."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"With reference to clauses (e), (f), (g) and (h), it is stated there 'nor in regard to some items could it be compiled without considerable preliminary enquiry.' What are those items, may I know?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Take for example clause (e) which wants the value of the lands possessed by each one of the estate-owners. Obviously, Government could not estimate the values without considerable enquiry. Then again, clause (f) wants 'the extent of land available for assignment to individuals or associations and the localities in which the same is situated.' That will need an enquiry to see whether there is any bit of land which could be disafforested and made available for assignment. The giviug of a complete answer to the whole question will therefore require a preliminary enquiry of considerable magnitude."

Assignment of the tank-bed of the Owk tank in Koilkuntla taluk.

* 352 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether within the tank-bed of the Owk tank in the Koilkuntla taluk of the Kurnool district there is included a large area of land which was originally cultivated by the ryots but was relinquished by them in hard times;

(b) if so, what the area of such lands is;

(c) whether within that area there are not about 65 wells which once were privately owned by the forefathers of the present ryot population and used for agricultural purposes;

(d) whether there are still some small plots privately owned inside this tank poramboke area;

(e) whether the ryots have petitioned for grant of parts of this poramboke land on patta; and

(f) why the Government have declined to convert parts of this land into ayan and grant them on patta?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 110 infra.